

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEBRASKA

MICHAEL BAUERMEISTER,  
Shareholder, Hmong Satellite T.V.,  
Inc.,

Plaintiff,

v.

HMONG SATELLITE T.V., INC.,

Defendant.

8:11CV341

**MEMORANDUM  
AND ORDER**

Plaintiff filed his Complaint in this matter on September 29, 2011. (Filing No. 1.) Plaintiff has been given leave to proceed in forma pauperis in this matter. (Filing No. 5.) The court now conducts an initial review of Plaintiff's claims to determine whether summary dismissal is appropriate under 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2).

**I. SUMMARY OF COMPLAINT**

\_\_\_\_\_ Plaintiff filed his Complaint against one Defendant, Hmong Satellite T.V., Inc. (Filing No. 1 at CM/ECF p. 1.) In its entirety, the Complaint alleges, "Since when does the company able make a new owner without the present owner and the shareholders of the company get the permission or the knowledge of a major change to the company." (Id. at CM/ECF p. 2.) As relief, Plaintiff requests that the court demand that the company "undo the change and pay for the damage." (Id. at CM/ECF p. 5.)

**II. APPLICABLE LEGAL STANDARDS ON INITIAL REVIEW**

The court is required to review in forma pauperis complaints to determine whether summary dismissal is appropriate. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2). The court must dismiss a complaint or any portion thereof that states a frivolous or malicious

claim, that fails to state a claim upon which relief may be granted, or that seeks monetary relief from a defendant who is immune from such relief. [28 U.S.C. § 1915\(e\)\(2\)\(B\)](#).

Pro se plaintiffs must set forth enough factual allegations to “nudge[] their claims across the line from conceivable to plausible,” or “their complaint must be dismissed” for failing to state a claim upon which relief can be granted. [Bell Atlantic Corp. v. Twombly](#), 550 U.S. 544, 570 (2007); *see also* [Ashcroft v. Iqbal](#), 129 S. Ct. 1937, 1950 (2009) (“A claim has facial plausibility when the plaintiff pleads factual content that allows the court to draw the reasonable inference that the defendant is liable for the misconduct alleged.”). Regardless of whether a plaintiff is represented or is appearing pro se, the plaintiff’s complaint must allege specific facts sufficient to state a claim. *See* [Martin v. Sargent](#), 780 F.2d 1334, 1337 (8th Cir. 1985). However, a pro se plaintiff’s allegations must be construed liberally. [Burke v. North Dakota Dep’t of Corr. & Rehab.](#), 294 F.3d 1043, 1043-44 (8th Cir. 2002) (citations omitted).

### III. DISCUSSION OF CLAIMS

The court must dismiss this action because it does not have subject-matter jurisdiction over it. “If the court determines at any time that it lacks subject-matter jurisdiction, the court must dismiss the action.” [Fed. R. Civ. P. 12\(h\)\(3\)](#). Subject-matter jurisdiction is proper pursuant to [28 U.S.C. § 1332](#), commonly referred to as “diversity of citizenship” jurisdiction. For purposes of [28 U.S.C. § 1332](#), “diversity of citizenship” means that “the citizenship of each plaintiff is different from the citizenship of each defendant.” [Ryan v. Schneider Natl. Carriers, Inc.](#), 263 F.3d 816, 819 (8th Cir. 2001). In addition, the amount in controversy must be greater than \$75,000.00 for diversity of citizenship jurisdiction. [28 U.S.C. § 1332\(a\)](#).

Here, Plaintiff alleges that he resides in Nebraska and Defendant resides in Minnesota, but he does not allege any amount in controversy. (Filing No. [1](#) at CM/ECF p. 1.) Indeed, Plaintiff does not allege any specific monetary damages at all.

Instead, he vaguely requests that the court demand that Defendant “pay for the damage.” (*Id.* at CM/ECF p. 5.) Thus, Plaintiff has failed to establish diversity of citizenship jurisdiction as a basis for jurisdiction in this matter.

Subject-matter jurisdiction is also proper where a plaintiff asserts a “non-frivolous claim of a right or remedy under a federal statute,” commonly referred to as “federal question” jurisdiction. [\*Northwest South Dakota Prod. Credit Ass’n v. Smith\*, 784 F.2d 323, 325 \(8th Cir. 1986\)](#). Here, Plaintiff does not set forth any specific actions taken by Defendant that violate any constitutional right or support a claim under [42 U.S.C. § 1983](#) or any other federal statute. In short, Plaintiff does not allege that Defendant deprived him of a right secured by the Constitution or laws of the United States or that the alleged deprivation was committed under “color of state law.” [\*West v. Atkins\*, 487 U.S. 42, 48 \(1988\)](#); [\*Buckley v. Barlow\*, 997 F.2d 494, 495 \(8th Cir. 1993\)](#). As such, the court lacks subject-matter jurisdiction, and the Complaint is dismissed without prejudice.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that: Plaintiff’s Complaint (filing no. [1](#)) is dismissed without prejudice. A separate Judgment will be entered in accordance with this Memorandum and Order.

DATED this 6<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2011.

BY THE COURT:

*Richard G. Kopf*

Senior United States District Judge

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